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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Scherer on June 9, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 60 (Currently Amended). A plasma surface processing apparatus for processing a surface of an object to be processed with a processing gas plasmatized under an electric field applied from an electric power source, said apparatus having an electrode structure having a gas passage through which said processing gas is passed from an upstream side to a downstream side of a passage direction and for generating said electric field in said gas passage, said electrode structure comprising: an elongate metallic first electrode body that is longer in a longitudinal direction orthogonal to said passage direction and shorter in the passage direction, the first electrode body having an elongate outer first surface which is a flat surface crossing with an arranging direction orthogonal to both the passage direction and the longitudinal direction and which is longer in said longitudinal direction and shorter in the passage direction; an elongate metallic second electrode body that is longer in said longitudinal direction and shorter in the passage direction, said second electrode body being arranged in parallel with said first electrode body in the arranging direction, said second electrode body having an elongate outer second

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surface which is a flat surface crossing with the arranging direction and facing said first surface in said arranging direction and which is longer in the longitudinal direction and shorter in the passage direction, one of said first and second electrode bodies being connected with said electric power source, the other of said first and second electrode bodies being electrically grounded, said electric field being generated between said first and second surfaces; and an elongate dielectric first case body that is longer in said longitudinal direction and shorter in the passage direction, said first case body being arranged in parallel with said first and second electrode bodies, said first case body being formed a cross section orthogonal to said longitudinal direction into a U-shape so that said first case body has a first internal space and a first opening, a side of the first internal space nearer to the second electrode body, in the arranging direction and both the upstream and the downstream sides of the first internal space in the passage direction, being surrounded by the first case body and a remaining side of the first internal space farther from the second electrode body in the arranging direction being opened to an outside and provided as the first opening, a plane of the first opening is parallel to the longitudinal direction, said first electrode body being received in said first internal space so that said first surface is contacted with an inner peripheral surface of said first case body, said second electrode body being disposed outside the first internal space of said dielectric first case body in said arranging direction, said first opening facing away from said second electrode body, said gas passage being formed between said dielectric first case body and said second electrode body, said gas passage being longer in the longitudinal direction and shorter in the passage direction, a first end of the gas passage in on the upstream side of the passage direction being connected with a source of the processing gas, a second end the of the gas passage in on the downstream side of the passage

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direction being connected with a blowoff aperture, and an end part on a side of said first opening of a portion of said first case body on the downstream side of the first internal space being protruded in said one remaining side farther from the second electrode body in the arranging direction relative to said first electrode body.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 60-69 are allowed.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: As noted in February 8, 2010 action, the closest prior art to the pending claims is to Shimonishi as IDS reference of June 28, 2004. The above amended claim adds structural geometric requirements that are absent teaching or suggestion in Shimonishi's Figures 1-4 and machine translation.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Rudy Zervigon whose telephone number is (571) 272-1442. The examiner can normally be reached on a Monday through Thursday schedule from 8am through 6pm EST. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Any Inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Chemical and Materials Engineering art unit receptionist at (571) 272-1700. If the examiner can not be reached please contact the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh, at (571) 272- 1435.

/Rudy Zervigon/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792

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